

Claims

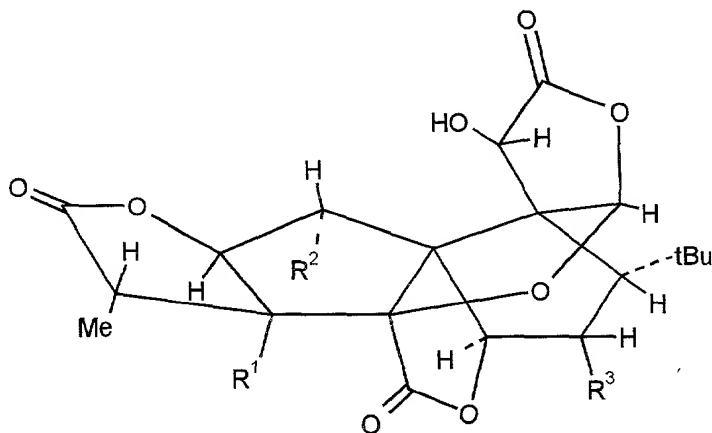
1. Use of a ginkgolide for the manufacture of a medicament for use as an inhibitor of membrane expression of a benzodiazepine receptor.

2. Use of an inhibitor of membrane expression of an adrenal benzodiazepine receptor for the manufacture of a medicament for use as an inhibitor of glucocorticoid release.

3. Use as claimed in claim 2 wherein said inhibitor of membrane expression of an adrenal benzodiazepine receptor is a ginkgolide.

4. Use according to claim 1 of a ginkgolide containing extract from ginkgo biloba.

5. Use as claimed in claim 1 of a ginkgolide of formula I



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(wherein each R^1 and R^3 , independently, is H or OH, and R^2 is H, OH, or C_1 - C_6 alkoxy) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. Use as claimed in claim 5 of a ginkgolide of formula I where R^1 is OH, R^2 is H or OH, and R^3 is H, or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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7. Use of a ginkgolide for the manufacture of a medicament for enhancing levels of ACTH.

8. A pharmaceutical composition for use as an inhibitor of membrane expression of a benzodiazepine receptor, said composition comprising an effective amount of a physiologically tolerable ginkgolide together with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

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9. A pharmaceutical composition for use as an inhibitor of glucocorticoid release, said composition comprising an effective amount of a ginkgolide or ginkgo biloba extract together with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

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10. A pharmaceutical composition for use as an elevator of ACTH levels said composition comprising a physiologically tolerable ginkgolide together with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

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11. A method of enhancing levels of ACTH in a patient, which comprises administering to said patient an effective amount of a ginkgolide.

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